

believe is a very noncontroversial bill and it was introduced by myself along with Senators Withem, and Goodrich, and Barrett. It is intended to address an admitted oversight in a bill, number 498, passed in 1983. What the bill does, what 498 did was authorize the State Fire Marshal to ask and receive a fee for plan review. And that was passed and it was a good bill and everybody is happy with it, but with one exception, the State Fire Marshal has the ability to pass on the duties of the State Fire Marshal's Office to political subdivisions that have codes that are at least as stringent as the state codes. For example, City of Omaha, City of Lincoln, they have local fire codes that are as stringent or more stringent than the statewide fire codes. In those cases the State Fire Marshal may pass on his duties. So you have the Omaha Fire Division, you have the Lincoln Fire Division, and they really are subdivisions or assignees in some cases for the State Fire Marshal. When this bill passed, LB 498, three years ago, it forced, according to the local fire divisions, it forced the fire divisions to assess a fee for plan review. It was pointed out to us that that happened as a matter of force as opposed to something that they necessarily wanted. The State Fire Marshal admitted that it wasn't part of his intention to do that and so we introduced this bill to more or less remove that provision that was put in. What this bill, LB 471, does, it removes the requirement...as a matter of fact it says that the local subdivisions of government, fire divisions shall not assess a fee for plan review separately from other kinds of fees that the cities may invoke. As a matter of fact, it says in the bill, specifically it says that this in no way impedes the city government or the local governing body from assessing that same kind of fee, that same amount of fee, as part of the regular building permit process. I don't want to take a whole lot of time in case there are some people that want to talk for or against this. So with that explanation, I would like to submit the bill for advancement and attempt to answer any questions you may have.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please, then Senator Pirsch. Senator Pirsch, did you want to go first?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Just a quick question, Gary. I noticed that Willard Johnson from Omaha Fire Division did oppose this in the hearing. Could you tell us briefly what his opposition was?